

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08  
COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 FTC-01 /065 W  
-----161022Z 060862 /11

R 160912Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5515  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU  
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2216

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, JA  
SUBJECT: ILLEGAL BOEING-RELATED PAYMENTS?

SUMMARY. OPPOSITION AND PRESS ARE FOCUSING ON POSSIBILITY  
OF ILLEGAL POLITICAL PAYMENTS WERE MADE IN CONNECTION  
WITH PURCHASE OF BOEING 747'S BY JAL. GOJ TRYING TO  
PLAY DOWN ISSUE BUT HAS ADMITTED IT IS "UNOFFICIALLY"  
INVESTIGATING MATTER IN US. END SUMMARY.

1. POSSIBILITY OF ILLEGAL POLITICAL PAYMENTS MADE IN  
CONNECTION WITH JAL'S PURCHASE OF FIVE BOEING 747'S HAS  
SURFACED IN DIET AND PRESS. IN FEBRUARY 14 LOWER HOUSE  
BUDGET COMMITTEE INTERPELLATION HIROICHI SAKAI (CGP)  
STATED JAL PURCHASE OF 747'S IN 1972 HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED  
BY "SPECIAL DISCOUNTS" (OF SEVENTEEN MILLION DOLLARS  
ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS REPORTS) AND POSSIBLY BY  
PAYMENTS TO POLITICIANS. IN REPLY HE WAS TOLD "VETERAN  
INVESTIGATORS" IN JAPAN WERE LOOKING INTO SALE  
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AND THAT MOFA WAS WAITING FOR REPLY FROM US SIDE TO  
QUERIES RE BOEING'S ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN.

2. ON FEBRUARY 15 JAL PRESIDENT ASADA ISSUED STATEMENT  
FLATLY DENYING ANY QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES BY JAL.  
FEBRUARY 16 PAPERS CARRIED HYODO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON  
THAT SEC SAID IT WAS UNABLE TO RELEASE INFORMATION

ON BOEING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON BECAUSE INVESTIGATIONS WERE NOW UNDER WAY AND THAT BOEING SPOKESMAN DENIED ANY ILLEGAL PAYMENTS CONNECTED WITH 1972 SALES IN JAPAN. BOEING AGENT FOR JAPAN, NISSHO-IWAI TRADING COMPANY, HAS THUS FAR REMAINED SILENT.

3. COMMENT. SINCE LOCKHEED REVELATIONS A YEAR AGO, SUSPICIONS RELATED TO BOEING SALES HAVE BEEN LURKING BELOW SURFACE. ISSUE SURFACED IN JANUARY 7 YOMIURI/ WASHINGTON REPORT BASED ON SEC BOEING INVESTIGATIONS THAT "EIGHTEEN SECRET AGENTS" WERE EMPLOYED BY BOEING IN JAPAN. YOMIURI REPORT ALSO SAID GOJ HAD STARTED "UNOFFICIAL," "GENERAL INFORMATION COLLECTING" INVESTIGATION IN US RE BOEING, BUT FEBRUARY 14 DIET STATEMENT WAS FIRST GOJ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS. FACTUAL EVIDENCE OF ILLEGAL PAYMENTS, HOWEVER, HAS YET TO BE PRODUCED. UNTIL IT IS, MILEAGE OPPOSITION CAN GET WILL BE SMALL AND GOJ CAN PRESUMABLY KEEP DAMPER ON ISSUE.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** ILLEGAL BOEING-RELATED PAYMENTS? SUMMARY. OPPOSITION AND PRESS ARE FOCUSING ON POSSIBILITY OF ILLEGAL POLITICAL PAYMENTS WERE MADE IN CONNECT  
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**Review Markings:**  
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